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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS  
Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

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## Harvey County Oral Health Coalition Launches Newsletter

In Harvey County, oral health advocates are working to educate people in Newton and surrounding communities about the importance of oral health. The Harvey County Oral Health Coalition has launched a new monthly newsletter to help spread the word about good oral health and about the coalition's activities.

Harvey County coalition chair Darla Stonehouse, RN said, "I am excited to keep the public and our Coalition Members informed! We welcome anyone to attend our monthly meetings and participate in our activities!"



In addition to their monthly newsletter, the Harvey County coalition also publishes a regular column in the *Newton Kansan*. Read more about their newspaper column, coalition meetings and a new dental provider survey in the [April and May issues of the coalition newsletter](#).

"Like" the

Pediatric Dental Benefit Sign-on

## ECP Facebook Page

A new Facebook page about the Extended Care Permit (ECP) for dental hygienists is available. The page was created by ECP hygienist and Dental Champion Patty Martinette in order to connect ECP Hygienists in Kansas and Missouri. The goal of the new page is to share information about how the permits are being used, as well as to establish community contacts to expand the use of the permits.

Join the [Facebook page](#) and spread the word about this valuable forum to promote the ECP model.



## Dental Champions Corner:

Sonja Armbruster, Class 5, has accepted a position at the [Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research](#)

## Letter

Oral Health Kansas joined nearly fifty state and national organizations in signing onto a letter regarding the pediatric dental benefit in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The letter, drafted and organized by the Children's Dental Health Project, urges the Department of Treasury to include the cost of stand-alone dental benefits in the calculation of premium tax credits under the ACA.

"As the rule is currently being interpreted, a family could end up being financially penalized for purchasing stand-alone pediatric dental benefits because the IRS now says they won't get the full premium tax credit that Congress intended them to have," said Patrice Pascual, Executive Director of the Children's Dental Health Project. CDHP has estimated that as many as 5 million more children could receive dental coverage under ACA. This number could shrink if the policy is allowed to stand.



The letter requests clarification that premium tax credits, which will assist families with incomes up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in purchasing health coverage under the ACA, be calculated to include the cost of stand-alone pediatric dental coverage. While the final rule is ambiguous, current IRS interpretation would allow a family's premium tax credit amount to be calculated without regard to the cost of stand-alone dental benefits, leaving many families with insufficient subsidies. Such a policy would create a significant financial disincentive for families to purchase pediatric dental coverage, a critical piece of the essential health benefits (EHB).

The list of organizations calling for re-interpretation of this rule includes state and national children's health and oral health groups, major dental provider organizations such as the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions, and national dental insurance organizations such as the National Association of Dental Plans and the Delta Dental Plans Association. The groups are united on this issue because of a shared concern about families' access to affordable dental care for their children. A copy of the letter can be found on the [Oral Health Kansas website](#).

## ECP Continuing Education to be offered in November

(CCSR), which is a well-respected statewide resource for leadership development, organizational capacity building, community-based consulting, research and evaluation.

Sonja served for ten years at the Sedgwick County Health Department and now will help lead a new public health initiatives program at CCSR.

Congratulations,  
Sonja!

*Next week watch for news about the 6th Dental Champions class, which launched on May 10th!*

## 2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference

Join us in November as we celebrate Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary with continuing education and networking opportunities!

Oral Health Kansas will offer a special continuing education session for Extended Care Permit dental hygienists and other dental professionals as a post-conference session on November 8, 2013. The Oral Health Kansas Conference on November 7-8 will present a variety of continuing education opportunities, and this year a special, in-depth session for ECP hygienists will be added to the agenda. ECP hygienists will have the chance to learn more about how to effectively serve people with disabilities during this session featuring Dr. Ray Lyons.

Save the date and watch for more details.

## Traveling Sugary Beverage Display

Currently the Oral Health Kansas traveling library drink displays are on display at the Garden City Dental Clinic, [GraceMed](#) and the Salina-Saline County Health Department.



If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email to [Tanya](#).

Three locations are set for June, but space is available for a host in July!

## WSU Dental Day: June 15

Come and spend a day in the dental/dental hygiene field. Dental Day is a great opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in the field of dentistry and dental hygiene. We have many exciting events planned for the day including hands-on interactive experience in our state of the art dental clinic, and academic knowledge of dental terminology and the different fields of dentistry. This camp is geared towards High School Juniors and Seniors interested in pursuing an education in

Brush with



Celebrating a Decade of Advancing  
Oral Health in Kansas

Johnson County  
Community College  
November 7-8

## Did You Know?

Teeth are the hardest  
substance in the human  
body.

[StarSmilez](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

the field of dentistry. Lunch will be included for participants of the day.

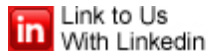
- Program instruction by distinguished WSU faculty.
- Students will experience what it is like to drill on teeth.
- Create a mold of your teeth.
- Get to use the latest dental tools.
- Learn what it takes to have a career in the dental field.
- Tours of the AEGD Building.

[Sign up today, space is limited!](#)



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



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